

Jack Langley, 1881-1915

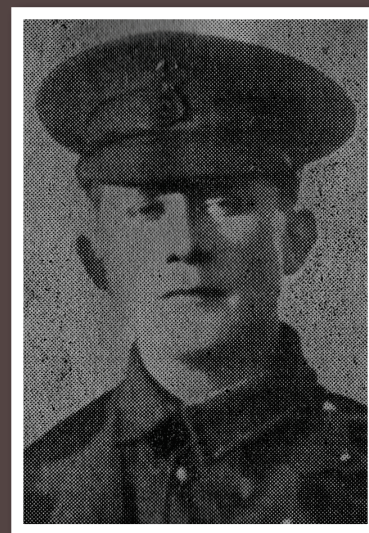


In addition to the dangers posed by the Turkish forces, the Allied servicemen at Gallipoli had to contend with illnesses brought on by the climate, scarce water supplies and poor sanitary conditions. On the same day that his regiment was attacking Scimitar Hill, Private Jack Langley of the Royal Bucks Hussars died of pneumonia in hospital in Cairo. He is buried in the war memorial cemetery there.

Jack was born in Marlow in 1881 and was educated at Sir William Borlase's School between 1889 and 1894. He served with the Royal Bucks Hussars during the Boer War and rejoined the regiment when the First World War broke out in summer 1914, but died before seeing active service.

Jack was a keen and successful member of the rowing club before the War. He first competed in a clinker four crew in 1909 and won his first open event in the Maiden Fours at Reading Regatta. In 1910, rowing at three, he was in another clinker crew that won the Junior Fours at Bourne End Regatta. In the same year, he also represented the club at Marlow and Maidenhead Regattas. In 1911, rowing at three, he won the Junior/Senior Eights Challenge Cup at Marlow Regatta.

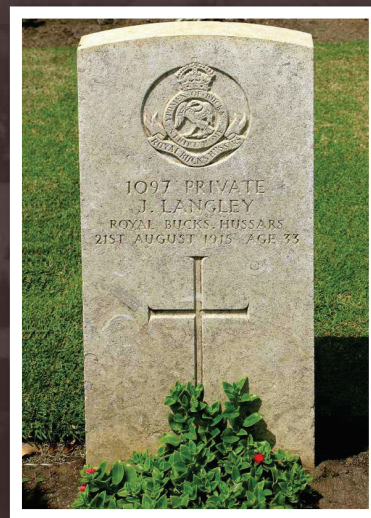
His obituary in the South Bucks Free Press reported that 'he was not a polished oarsman and was a trifle lacking in the necessary stamina for hard racing, but his keenness made up for those deficiencies. His generosity, high spirits and readiness for any harmless fun made him very popular with the select circle known as the "Rowing Club Boys".' On hearing of his death, the club flew its flag at half-mast as a tribute to 'the memory of one of the many gallant members who answered the call.' Jack's step-brother was Roy Foster, a highly successful club rower who was killed in France in 1917.



Private Jack Langley



Cairo War Memorial Cemetery, courtesy of Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Jack Langley's grave in Cairo War Memorial Cemetery
Courtesy of the War Graves Photographic Project